

Claims

1. Use of an anti-microbial agent and a metal chelator in
5 the manufacture of a medicament for the modulation of lipid metabolism in the vascular system of an individual.
2. Use according to claim 1 wherein the level of cholesterol is reduced in the vascular system of the individual.
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3. Use according to claim 1 wherein the level of apolipoprotein-B is reduced in the vascular system of the individual.
- 15 4. Use according to claim 3 wherein the condition is selected from the group consisting of hypercholesterolemia, hyperlipidemia, nephrotic syndrome, hypothyroidism, dysglobulinemia and Cushing syndrome.
- 20 5. Use according to claim 5 wherein said anti-microbial agent is a macrolide antibiotic.
6. Use according to claim 5 wherein said anti-microbial agent is a azalide antibiotic
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7. Use according to claim 6 wherein said anti-microbial agent is azithromycin.
8. Use according to any one of the preceding claims wherein
30 said metal chelator is a copper chelator.
9. Use according to claim 8 wherein said copper chelator is acetylsalicylic acid.

10. Use according to any of claims 1 to 9 wherein said medicament is a single composition comprising an anti-microbial agent and a metal chelator.

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11. Use according to any of claims 1 to 9 wherein said medicament comprises separate preparations of the anti-microbial agent and metal chelator.

10 12. A method for modulating lipid metabolism in the vascular system comprising administering an anti-microbial agent and a metal chelator to an individual in need thereof.

15 13 A method according to claim 12 wherein the total level of cholesterol is reduced in the vascular system of the individual.

20 14. A method according to claim 12 or claim 13 wherein the level of apolipoprotein-B is reduced in the vascular system of the individual.

25 15. A method according to any one of claims 12 to 14 wherein the condition is selected from the group consisting of hypercholesterolemia, hyperlipidemia, nephrotic syndrome, hypothyroidism, dysglobulinemia and Cushing syndrome.

16. A method according to any one of claims 12 to 15 wherein said anti-microbial agent is a macrolide antibiotic.

30 17. A method according to claim 16 wherein said anti-microbial agent is a azalide antibiotic

18. A method according to claim 17 wherein said anti-microbial agent is azithromycin.

19. A method according to any one of claims 12 to 18 wherein
5 said metal chelator is a copper chelator.

20. A method according to any one of claims 12 to 19 wherein
said copper chelator is acetylsalicylic acid.

10 21. A method according to claim according to any one of
claims 12 to 20 wherein anti-microbial agent and the metal
chelator are administered simultaneously.

22. A method according to any one of claims 12 to 20 wherein
15 anti-microbial agent and the metal chelator are administered
sequentially.

23. A pharmaceutical composition comprising an anti-microbial
agent and a metal-chelator for use in the modulation of lipid
20 metabolism.

24. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 23
comprising azithromycin and aspirin

25 25. A method of preparing a composition for use in the
modulation of lipid metabolism comprising;
admixing a anti-microbial agent and a metal chelator with a
pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

30 26, A method according to claim 25 wherein the anti-microbial
agent is azithromycin and the metal chelator is
acetylsalicylic acid.